

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“ ”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing assistance in managing a medical treatment within a business environment, comprising:

at least one electronic machine broadcasting an offer of assistance from fellow members of the business environment to an employee for managing a medical treatment over different communication channels of the business of an employer of the employee, the at least one electronic machine comprising at least one of a video monitoring system installed in a locale of the business environment, a web server hosting a private web site on an intranet of the business, and an email server providing email communications for the business;

at least one electronic mailbox receiving a request for assistance in managing a medical treatment from ~~a person~~ the employee who is concerned with a medical condition, wherein ~~the person is employed in the business and~~ the request is received at a business address for the at least one electronic mailbox comprising at least one of a business email address, a business telephone number, and a web address; and

utilizing at least one computer of the business environment to assist in managing the medical treatment for the medical condition, the at least one computer comprising at least one of a database to track a status of the assistance being provided and a server

to produce medical resource guides in electronic form provided to persons receiving assistance.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing a telephone number that the ~~person~~ employee may dial to make a request for assistance.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing an email address that the ~~person~~ employee may direct the request for assistance.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein assistance is eligible to be offered to a person that is an employee and has been newly diagnosed with the medical condition.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein assistance is eligible to be offered to a person that is an employee and has a family member that has been newly diagnosed with the medical condition.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, the utilizing step further comprising:

maintaining the identity of the ~~person~~ employee confidential.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

requesting the ~~person~~ employee to assess the assistance the ~~person~~ employee received for program evaluation purposes.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring the type of assistance being provided to the ~~person~~ employee.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

acquiring utilization data with regard to the ~~person~~ employee receiving the assistance.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

acquiring utilization data with regard to the type of medical condition that assistance is being provided.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

discarding any information obtained about the ~~person~~ employee after the assistance has been rendered.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, [[,]] wherein a medical resource guide includes medical treatment information for the medical condition.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, the further comprising:
mailing the ~~informational resource material~~ medical resource guide to the ~~person~~ employee;
confirming the receipt of the medical resource guide by the ~~person~~ employee;
and
arranging a trained volunteer to personally assist the ~~person~~ employee in understanding the medical resource guide material after the medical resource guide has been received.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
personally assisting the ~~person~~ employee in understanding the medical resource guide.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
personally encouraging the ~~person~~ employee to have active participation in his or her medical treatment.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
recruiting within the business environment for persons to volunteer to help with assisting in managing a medical treatment of a medical condition.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
personally assisting the ~~person~~ employee in finding additional assistance from another party that provides assistance within the business environment with regard to personal problems.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
training someone employed in the business in another capacity to provide personal assistance in understanding the medical resource guide for the medical condition to another.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, the utilizing step further comprising:
assuring that the someone has prior personal experience with the medical condition.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the prior personal experience involves being personally diagnosed with the medical condition.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
assuring that the someone is the same gender as the ~~person~~ employee
concerned with the medical condition.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
assuring that the someone is of the same general age as the ~~person~~ employee
concerned with the medical condition.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
locating new medical information concerning the medical condition;
procuring the new medical information; and
compiling the new medical information into a resource guide for the medical
condition, wherein the resource guide includes the medical treatment information for the
medical condition.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, the further comprising:
updating, periodically, medical information within the resource guide.

31-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A system for implementing a program that provides assistance in managing a medical treatment within a business environment, comprising:

an electronic machine broadcasting an offer of assistance from fellow members of the business environment to ~~an~~ current and retired employee ~~employees~~ for managing a medical treatment over different communication channels of the business of an employer ~~of the employee~~, the electronic machine comprising at least one of a video monitoring system installed in a locale of the business environment, a web server hosting a private web site on an intranet of the business, and an email server providing email communications for the business;

an electronic mailbox to store a message from an individual who is requesting assistance regarding a medical treatment, wherein the individual is currently employed or a retiree in the business and the request is received at a business address for the electronic mailbox comprising at least one of a business email address, a business telephone number, and a web address; and

a local information computer network provided within the business environment to disseminate information about the availability of services performed by the program to current and retired employees of the business environment, wherein the local information computer network comprises a video monitoring system to display video information to ~~the active members~~ current employees.

47. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the electronic mailbox is a voice mailbox.

48. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the electronic mailbox is an email mailbox.

49. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the information includes a description of services provided by the program.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the information includes an invitation for employees who want to volunteer for the program to contact a representative of the program at an address for the electronic mailbox.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the information includes an invitation for employees who want assistance from the program to contact a representative of the program at an address for the electronic mailbox.

52. (Original) The system of claim 46, further comprising:
an Internet server to store a web site for the program, wherein the web site contains a description of services performed by the program.

53. (Original) The system of claim 48, wherein the web sites provides a mechanism for sending a message to a representative of the program.

54. (Original) The system of claim 48, wherein the web sites provides medical information.

55. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, wherein the local information computer network further comprises:

a private messaging network that is utilized by ~~the active members~~ current employees.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, further comprising:

a community information network provided outside the business environment to disseminate additional information from the program to a retired employee of the business environment.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the additional information includes an invitation for retired employees who want to volunteer for the program to contact a representative of the program at an address for the electronic mailbox.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the additional information includes an invitation for retired employees who want assistance from the program to contact a representative of the program at an address for the electronic mailbox.